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government on various special embassies and as legal adviser to China after her disastrous war with Japan in 1894.

Frank criticism and sincere appreciation of the governments to which he has been accredited mark these volumes. In Mexico, General Foster was our representative during its trying period of regeneration. The work of Diaz in bringing his country to its present place in the family of nations is warmly praised, but the dangers of disregarding the value of training a people in real self-government are also pointed out. In the mission to Spain his familiarity with the Spanish language and character brought to General Foster an intimate acquaintance with the leading statesmen of the peninsula. The chapters covering this period of his career are the most interesting portion of the volumes and give a sympathetic and appreciative estimate of such men as Canovas, Sagasta and Castelar. These missions and an account of the intervening one to Russia occupy the first volume.

The second volume treats mainly of special commissions on which the author served, including reciprocity negotiations, the Bering Sea arbitration, Hawaiian annexation, Canadian affairs and the Second Hague Conference. The discussion of the negotiations between China and Japan brings out much new material valuable for the student of the Far East. There are also excellent character sketches in the chapters "Presidents Under Whom I Served" and "Secretaries of State." These estimates will modify the commonly accepted opinions as to the ability of some of our statesmen. Fish was able but not of the first rank. Evarts was a good lawyer but out of place "in the State Department," and Blaine, though brilliant, had serious faults as a diplomatist. These criticisms are written with a judicial fairness and substantiated by convincing illustration.

It is interesting to read the opinion of an authority of such weight upon the value of a permanent foreign service. General Foster states, "I am a strong advocate for the establishment of a regular career for the diplomatic service—I would have all secretaries of legation enter the service through a competitive examination; continue in office during good behavior; and, as they should prove worthy, have them promoted to ministers. But I doubt whether the time will ever come when our government will think it wise to confine the appointment of ministers and ambassadors entirely to promotions from the posts of secretary."

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**Hedin, Sven.** *Trans-Himalaya.* 2 vols. Pp. xl, 875. Price, \$7.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1909.

"Trans-Himalaya" is the narrative account of one of the most important exploring expeditions undertaken in recent decades; an expedition which in results obtained and difficulties overcome deserves to rank with the work of Stanley in Africa. The relatively short time available for the writing of the two volumes—the author confessing that it was done in a little over a hundred

days—made it impossible to include the worked-out results of much of the scientific observations, those being reserved for a later work. This fact, however, does not prevent the inclusion of such an impression of what those scientific results are as to satisfy the average individual.

The volumes are essentially a running narrative of the events incidental to the author's journeys from Simla, through two years of wandering in Tibet and back to the starting point. In much of the book the text very evidently is simply a direct transcription from the explorer's daily journal, since trivial and irrelevant items are often found interspersed with the details of important investigations and discoveries. Yet it must be admitted that this evidence of literal transcription of events just as they came to Hedin is one of the chief factors in giving a strong fascination to the whole account.

It is entirely beyond the possibility of a short review to set forth the many results of the expedition as revealed in the "Journal," but in general they may be summarized as sufficing to fill in accurately large sections of the map of Asia, heretofore left blank or guessed at. Material changes in certain aspects of the map of Central Asia will be necessary when these scientific observations are fully worked out. In accomplishing his purpose, Hedin not only had to overcome constant obstacles put in his way by native officials, but also was forced to run grave dangers of personal injury. In fact, the relations between explorer and native officials is not the least interesting thread of the narrative, for it was only through the exercising of unflagging persistence, tact and indomitable courage, that he managed to accomplish anything.

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**Jevons, W. Stanley.** *Investigations in Currency and Finance.* Pp. xxvi, 347.

Price, \$7.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1909.

All students of economics will welcome the appearance of a second edition of Jevons' *Investigations in Currency and Finance*, the first edition of which has been out of print for about five years. In his introduction to the first edition, written in 1884, Professor Foxwell, commenting upon the late publication of these essays in book form (some of which were at that time twenty years old), said that the appearance of the volume could hardly have been more opportune, for never had there been more general attention directed to the subjects of which they treat than at that time. This statement is probably even more true for 1910 than it was for 1884. Mr. Jevons referred to the papers as falling into two groups, "the first comprising Papers I to VIII, treating of prices, commercial fluctuations, crises, etc.; while the second, comprising Papers IX to XIV, treats more strictly of currency . . ." The great increase in the world's gold production in recent years, with its effects upon prices, interest rates, and general commercial and social